Negligence of Port Authorities in issuing advance cyclone warning

3049. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cyclone warning centre had put up the great danger signalling triangular flag at all Gujarat Ports including Kandla, on the 8th June, 1998 which was also preceded by the warning radioed on the 7th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 5 ships collided and damaged the Jetties at Kandla Port and hundred died in the worst hit Kutch district on June 9, 1998 notwithstanding the above warnings; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take against the port authorities for not taking timely action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Meterological Department has sent five warning messages on June 8, 1998 to the Gujarat Ports regarding display of signal No. 8 which indicates great danger. Port Trust had hoisted signal No. 8; as soon as message was received.

(c) One Oil Jetty which was to be decommissioned during the month of July, 1998 and the other belonging to IFFCO got partly damaged because of ships colliding with them inspite of double moorings. There were minor damages to the fenders and bollards in General Cargo Berths and Oil Jetties. The total number of deaths in the Kutch District is being ascertained from Gujarat Government.

(d) The question does not arise as Kandla Port Trust has taken all possible measures to safeguard the lives of its employees and its properties.

Sethusamuthiram Project

3050. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided in principle to execute Sethusamuthiram project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what is the revised estimates of the project; and

(c) will Government allocate any fund during the current financial year for starting the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर चिकित्सा राहत केन्द्र

3051. **चौ० हरमोहन सिंह:**
श्री नागमणि:

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार के पास राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर दुर्घटनाग्रस्त लोगों को राहत पहुंचाने हेतु चिकित्सा राहत केन्द्रों की स्थापना करने की कोई योजना है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण ने राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर ऐसे चिकित्सा राहत केन्द्र खोले हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देबेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) और (ख) जी नहीं। तथापि, सरकार ने 1993-94 में एक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग गश्त स्कीम लागू की थी जिसके अंतर्गत राज्य सरकारों को वित्तीय सहायता दी जाती है ताकि वे सड़क दुर्घटना में पीड़ित व्यक्तियों की सहायता के लिए एम्बुलैंस और दुर्घटना में क्षतिग्रस्त वाहनों को राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों से हटाने के लिए क्रेन खरीद सकें।

(ग) और (घ) फिलहाल भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण रा०रा०-8 के कोटपुतली-आमेर खंड पर एक एम्बुलेंस सेवा चला रहा है। इस एम्बुलेंस में एक चालक तथा प्राथमिक चिकित्सा सुविधाओं सहित एक अटैंडेंट तैनात होता है। दुर्घटना के मामले में यह एम्बुलैंस

तत्काल चिकित्सा सहायता उपलब्ध करवाएगी और पीड़ित व्यक्तियों को निकटतम स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र/अस्पताल ले जाएगी।

Double Landing of NH-44 in Tripura

3052. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NH-44 is not double lane in Tripura

(b) if so, why basic facility is not being extended when in rest of the country NHs are being developed into four lane roads; and

(c) by when Government propose to take up double laning of NH-44 in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Out of 198 Km in Tripura, about 26 Km are double-lane.

(b) and (c) Improvement including widening of National Highways is a continuous process, commensurate with traffic volume, inter-se-priorities and availability of funds. At present, keeping in view the traffic volume, the proposal for widening of NH-44 is at low priority.

Progess of work at Kandla Port

3053. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the Kandla Port is still at standstill on account of recent cyclone; and

(b) the steps taken to divert traffic of the port for unhindered supply of diesel and other products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Kandla Port is returning fast back to normalcy. The crude handling operations were started on the 15th June, 1998 and the handling of petroleum products including diesel was resumed from the 24th June, 1998.

Amendment of Coastal Trade Law

3054. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Coastal Trade Law to integrate various agencies involved in transporting goods and to remove bottle-necks in exports

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed to improve surface transport facilities to the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There is no Coastal Trade Law as such. Therefore, there is no porposal to amend the Coastal Trade Law to integrate various agencies involved in transporting goods and to remove bottlenecks in exports.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai are processing the requests received from exporters for chartering in of foreign flag vessels for export of cargo. The procedure and the application form itself for chartering in of foreign flag vessels have since been simplified by the Directorate.

Damaged roads and bridges in Assam

3055. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of bridges damaged and breaches occurred on National Highways due to (i) bomb blast and (ii) flood in Assam during last three years;

(b) details of segment on different National Highways in Assam submerged